

REMARKS**INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 9, and 10 have been amended. No new matter has been submitted and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 2, and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Kenji, Japanese Publication 2001-052368. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As only an example, independent claim 1 sets forth:

"An optical pickup mounted on a pickup base moving relative to an optical recording medium and used to record information on and/or reproduce information from the optical recording medium, the optical pickup comprising:

a first optical module;

an objective lens to focus a first light beam emitted from the first optical module on the optical recording medium; and

a first front photo-detector to monitor power of the first light beam emitted from the first optical module toward optical components to irradiate the optical recording medium;

wherein the first optical module is coupled to the first front photo-detector to be installed on the pickup base."

Here, in particular, independent claim 1 at least requires the first front photo-detector to monitor the first light beam emitted from the first optical module toward optical components to irradiate the optical recording medium.

Conversely, the system of Kenji appears to disclose a system for placing a photo-detector within an optical module to be either within a forward light scatter area (FIG. 4) or behind an the corresponding laser diode in a light scatter area (FIG. 10).

For example, FIG. 4 of Kenji illustrates that the photo-detector must be within the optical module, and light that irradiates the photo-detector is not light that is intended to be emitted out of the optical module toward the remaining optical components. See the illustrated "optical scope" of the optical module of Kenji in FIG. 4 as being the light that is designed to be emitted from the optical medium and which will irradiate toward the remaining components of the system. Any light further radiating to and then reflecting from the photo-detector of FIG. 1 is not

intended to be emitted out of the optical module in the described "optical scope" of the optical module.

Here, in particular, Kenji emphasizes that the desired positioning of the photo-detector is outside of the optical scope of the optical module.

FIG. 10 further illustrates such an accomplishment of not interfering with the light beam that is generated to be radiated to the remaining optical components.

To accomplish this goal, Kenji illustrates a behind arranged photo-detector, the Office Action supplied mechanical translation of Kenji states in paragraph [0034]: "The tooth back of the laser diode chip 41 is a reflector fundamentally, and is not penetrated as a leakage light to the slight quantity of light deer exterior generated with the laser diode chip 41. Therefore, back monitor 42' must presume and carry out the monitor of the quantity of light of leakage light to an actual outgoing radiation light of this slight quantity of light."

Here, this means that by using a reflector and by placing the photo-detector behind the laser diode, the slight amount of leakage light provided to the reflector and to the back monitor can be used to estimate the actual outgoing light of the laser diode.

In both demonstrated embodiments of Kenji the photo-detector is both within the optical module and outside of the "optical scope" of the generated light beam to be emitted from the optical module. See the English Abstract of Kenji.

Conversely, embodiments of the present invention purposely place a photo-detector in the "optical scope" of the optical module and outside and in front of the optical module.

For example, all independent claims require the photo-detector to be separate from the optical module and to detect light emitted from the optical module. Further, claim 1 requires the first front photo-detector to monitor power of the first light beam emitted from the first optical module toward optical components to irradiate the optical recording medium; claim 9 requires the optical module to emit a light beam toward optical components for irradiating the emitted light to the optical recording medium and for the optical module to be coupled to the front photo-detector so that a fixed distance is maintained between the optical module and the front photo-detector in a direction of the optical components irradiating the emitted light to the optical recording medium, and claim 10 requires the front-detector to be between the optical module and the collimating lens to partially block light irradiated toward the collimating lens.

Again, it is respectfully submitted that Kenji specifically teaches that, conversely to the claimed invention, it is required for the photo-detector to be outside the optical scope of the optical module.

Thus, in addition to Kenji failing to disclose the presently claimed invention, it is further respectfully submitted that Kenji supports the conclusion that such a claimed arrangement also would not have been obvious.

Accordingly, for at least the above, withdrawal of this rejection of independent claims 1 and 9 is respectfully requested. In addition, for at least similar rationale, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 10 and claims depending from claim 1 are also in allowable condition.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Kenji, in view of Ophey, U.S. Patent No. 5,500,846; claims 4-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Kenji, in view of Takahashi, U.S. Patent No. 5,991,255; and claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Kenji, in view of Yokoyama, U.S. Patent No. 5,161,040. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that none of Kenji, Ophey, Takahashi, and Yokoyama, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the above deficient features of independent claims 1, 9, and 10.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

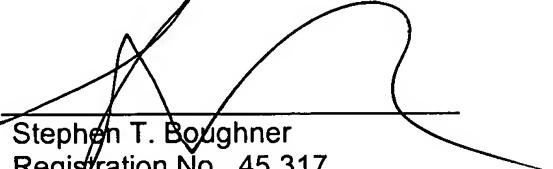
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 2/25/07

By: 
Stephen T. Boughner
Registration No. 45,317

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501